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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
Drafting Group
Twelfth meeting
31 March 1995

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Amendments to the draft declaration for the Fiftieth Anniversary submitted by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee (A/AC.240/1995/WG/1*)

A. Amendments proposed by the working group of the movement of the non-aligned countries

1. Paragraph 1

Replace the words "and with new direction" with the words "and with a redoubled commitment to promote peace, justice, equality and development and, thus, foster a better understanding between the peoples of the world".

2. Paragraph 2

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"The Charter of the United Nations was forged 50 years ago, following the tragedy of the Second World War, with the aim to promote collective actions in order to achieve a better and more peaceful world, where all peoples and nations, particularly those living in poverty, had equal opportunities to exercise their rights fully and achieve unhindered progress and development."

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3. Paragraph 3

(a) In the last sentence, replace the word "shaped" with the words "helped to shape";

(b) After paragraph 3, insert the following text:

"We are witnessing in countries throughout the world the expansion of prosperity for some, unfortunately accompanied by an expansion of unspeakable poverty for others. This glaring contradiction is unacceptable and needs to be corrected through urgent actions by the United Nations to promote development.

"While the global wealth of nations has multiplied seven fold in the past 50 years and international trade has grown even more dramatically, and life expectancy, literacy, primary education and access to basic health care have increased in many countries, the gap between developing and developed countries has widened and within many societies, in both developed and developing countries, the gap between rich and poor has also widened, and far too many people are stricken by poverty, unemployment and social disintegration which make them increasingly vulnerable to stress and deprivation. More than 1 billion people in the world live in abject poverty, most of whom go hungry every day."

4. Paragraph 4

Replace the paragraph with the following text:

"We underline the responsibility of the United Nations towards an enlarged community of nations that expects the Organization to uphold the aims for which it was created. We solemnly reaffirm our abiding commitment to the principles of the United Nations, enshrined in its Charter and in international law, in particular the principles of sovereignty, sovereign equality, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

"The United Nations has played a pivotal role during its 50 years of existence in the struggle for decolonization and, more recently, it has contributed decisively to the elimination of apartheid.

"Nevertheless, we are determined that the remaining colonial territories shall be able to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, on the basis of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and in the context of the Plan of Action for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the General Assembly.

"We reiterate our belief that the United Nations represents the most appropriate international forum for the maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes and crises; for the achievement of freedoms and for securing the right to self-determination of peoples under alien or colonial domination or foreign occupation, while

guaranteeing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States; for promoting democratic principles in international political and economic decision-making; for the fostering of cooperation in the field of the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development; for the attainment of just and equitable economic relations and social development, as well as for the strengthening of friendly relations and peaceful coexistence among nations. We hereby affirm our determination to build upon the achievements of the United Nations and utilize its potential in order to advance our shared aspirations of peace, security and prosperity.

"We consider unacceptable the developing, producing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as strategic doctrines based on the use or threat of use of such weapons. In this regard we resolve to give the highest priority to the elimination of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction and to reduce conventional and other kinds of armaments worldwide, thereby making a real contribution to the security of all peoples around the world."

5. Paragraph 5

Replace the last sentence of the paragraph with the following:

"The end of the East-West confrontation increased the expectations of all peoples in the world and their hopes in the ability of the United Nations to address effectively issues of common global concern and interest. Furthermore, it increased expectations of achieving a more just system of international relations guided by fairness, equality and equity."

6. Paragraph 6

Replace the paragraph with the following text:

"We are convinced of the need to strengthen the Organization and enhance its credibility in these new circumstances by committing ourselves to fostering human dignity, equality, respect, democracy within and among nations, and cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion or the cultural backgrounds of peoples. In this regard we are committed to democratizing the United Nations so as to allow the fullest participation and engagement of all its Members in the fulfilment of its common endeavours.

"We are resolved to continue the process of United Nations reform and restructuring, with a view to ensuring equal participation, equitable representation and appropriate balance between the United Nations organs, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. We are convinced that we must endeavour to make the United Nations more responsive to the changing realities and challenges of peace and development.

"We are also committed to making continuous efforts to reduce and eliminate major sources of social distress and instability for the family

and for society. We pledge our particular focus upon and priority attention to the fight against worldwide conditions that pose severe threats to the health, safety, peace, security and well-being of our people. Among these are chronic hunger, malnutrition, illicit drug problems, organized crime, corruption, foreign occupation, armed conflicts, illicit arms trafficking, terrorism, intolerance and incitement to racial, ethnic, religious and other hatred, xenophobia, and endemic, communicable and chronic diseases. To this end, coordination and cooperation at the national and particularly regional and international levels should be further strengthened."

Peace

7. Paragraph 7

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"The closing years of the first half century of the United Nations have seen a significant expansion of the role of the Organization in the maintenance of international peace and security. The United Nations tasks in this field, particularly peace-keeping operations, have become increasingly costly and complex. We are convinced that this requires a thorough review so as to avoid any detrimental effect on resources geared to developmental and other activities of the United Nations. The United Nations should play a potential role in general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, leading to the total elimination of all nuclear weapons."

8. Paragraph 8

Replace the subparagraphs with the following text:

"- Recognize that the quest for global peace, security and stability will be futile without addressing the urgent problem of development and equitable economic cooperation;

"- Promote an approach that encourages and secures friendly relations between peoples with different political, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds;

"- Fully recognize that respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and non-interference in the internal affairs of States is essential for the maintenance of international peace and security;

"- Recognize the essential role of the United Nations in all issues of disarmament. In this regard we affirm that regional and global approaches to disarmament and arms limitations complement each other and both should be pursued simultaneously in order to promote regional and international peace and security. In this context we also emphasize the importance of a comprehensive approach to disarmament issues on a non-discriminatory basis. We also give the greatest priority to the establishment of a genuine, truly universal and

non-discriminatory nuclear non-proliferation regime that would promote the prospects of a better and more secure world free of nuclear weapons;

"- Fully recognize the inescapable relationship between disarmament and development and, in this context, the need to utilize resources released by disarmament for development, in particular of developing countries;

"- Fully utilize the capabilities of the United Nations in the field of pacific settlement of disputes, which are likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the Charter;

"- Ensure the full application of the principles governing peace-keeping operations, in particular the consent of the parties involved, full neutrality, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, clarity of mandates and defined scope and duration of a United Nations peace-keeping operation;

"- Secure timely payment of assessed contributions to United Nations peace-keeping operations, while ensuring that the balance of resources between those activities and developmental and other activities of the United Nations is equitable and just."

9. Paragraph 9

Renumber as paragraph 7 (bis) and replace with the following:

"As no consideration of the maintenance of international peace and security would be complete without acknowledging the essential role of economic and social factors both in the origin of conflicts and in the building of a durable peace, we reiterate our commitment to the establishment of a dynamic, vigorous and equitable international economic environment that decisively contributes to the stability and prosperity of all nations and peoples."

Equality

10. Paragraph 10

(a) At the end of the first sentence of the chapeau insert the words ", as well as the rights of minorities and indigenous people, and of the most disadvantaged sectors of society";

(b) Replace the subparagraphs with the following text:

"Promote democracy, human dignity, social justice and solidarity at the national, regional and international levels; ensure tolerance, non-violence and pluralism and non-discrimination in full respect of diversity within and among nations;

"Promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development; promote the effective exercise of rights and the discharge of responsibilities at all levels of society; protect the rights of women, children and youth and the disabled;

"Recognize and support indigenous people in their pursuit of economic and social development with full respect for their identity, traditions, forms of social organization and cultural values;

"Strengthen policies and programmes that ensure the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of their fundamental rights."

Justice

11. Paragraph 11

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"The Charter of the United Nations has provided a framework for the promotion of international law, through the fulfilment of its purposes and principles. The United Nations has also played an important role in the development of international law, thus contributing to building the structure of modern international relations. This work must be pursued with renewed determination, given the developments under way in technology, transport, information and resource-related fields, as well as the growing complexity of the work of the United Nations. In this regard, we also recognize the necessity of democratizing the United Nations."

12. Paragraph 12

(a) Delete the first subparagraph;

(b) Replace the second subparagraph with the words: "The building and maintenance of justice between nations in full compliance with the principle of sovereign equality of States enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations";

(c) At the end of the third subparagraph insert the words: ", in particular the Charter of the United Nations";

(d) Replace the fourth subparagraph with the words: "Respecting the role of the International Court of Justice in the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter";

(e) After the fourth subparagraph, add two new subparagraphs reading:

"Reviewing the Statute of the International Court of Justice with the aim of making it more responsive to the needs and characteristics of present international relations;

"Putting an end to all forms of discrimination among nations and between nations as well as to any unilateral measure, not in keeping with the Charter and international law, to the detriment of any State."

Development

13. Paragraphs 13 to 16

The section "Development" should be inserted after paragraph 6, as the first section of the draft declaration, and the paragraphs should be renumbered accordingly.

14. Paragraph 13

(a) Before the paragraph, insert the following text:

"Given the deepening and growing interdependence of nations and peoples, we are fully conscious of the fact that a dynamic, vigorous and equitable international economic environment is essential for international peace, security, stability and prosperity.

"We stress that one of the most serious problems facing the world today is the gap that exists between the rich and the poor countries, between the developed States, which possess enormous economic, scientific and technological resources, and the developing States. This gap, despite the several international development strategies and agreements in the United Nations, has continued to widen, and constitutes today the major cause of instability around the world. We are convinced that the world cannot achieve peace without effectively addressing the issue of development.

"We can continue to hold the trust of the people of the world only if we make their needs our priority. We know that poverty, lack of productive employment and social disintegration are an offence to human dignity. We also know that they are negative forces and represent a waste of human resources and a manifestation of ineffectiveness in the functioning of markets and economic and social institutions and processes."

(b) In the first sentence of paragraph 13, delete the word "vital" before the word "role".

15. Paragraph 15

Delete the paragraph.

16. Paragraph 16

(a) Replace the chapeau with the following: "We commit ourselves, in fulfilment of the right to development:"

(b) Replace the subparagraphs with the following text:

"- To promoting the establishment of an open, equitable, cooperative and mutually beneficial international economic environment;

"- To commencing the renewed dialogue between the developed and developing countries on all development issues in response to the imperatives of mutual benefit and interest, genuine interdependence and shared responsibility;

"- To conducting this dialogue and implementing measures on the basis of the commitments on development, especially the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Cartagena Commitment, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, Agenda 21, and the various consensus agreements and conventions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and to marking the beginning of a new global partnership for sustained growth and sustainable development, which all together provide the overall framework of international cooperation for development;

"- As part of this process, to implementing the outcome of the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women;

"- To adopting an action-oriented Agenda for Development, based on the commitments set forth in the Declaration of the Eighteenth Special Session of the General Assembly on International Economic Cooperation for Development and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and on agreements reached in recent major United Nations development-related conferences, that would seek to promote effective implementation of the existing commitments and agreements in the area of economic and social development and give effective response to the substantive issues of money, finance, trade, debt and technology;

"- To continuing efforts to develop and open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system in order to promote growth and development and the free movement of factors of production;

"- To maintaining efforts at market-oriented and socially acceptable economic reforms in conjunction with improving the external economic environment, in order to expand multilateral economic cooperation and increase the meaningful participation of people in the economic and development processes;

"- To cooperating in facilitating access to and the transfer of technology to developing countries on preferential and concessional terms, removing barriers to access to technology, including new and emerging technologies, and promoting the transfer of environmentally sound technologies through new and innovative mechanisms, such as publicly funded intermediaries;

"- To striving for the democratization of all institutions of the United Nations system, in particular the financial and credit institutions, in full compliance with the principle of sovereign equality of States."

17. Paragraph 17

Before the paragraph, insert the following text:

"We are also committed to intensifying cooperation with regard to natural disaster reduction, disaster relief and post-disaster rehabilitation and humanitarian assistance in order to enhance the capabilities of countries, particularly developing countries, to cope with such situations.

"We pledge to build upon our cooperation in the activities in outer space and the exploration of the deep seas for the common benefit of humankind."

B. Amendments proposed by the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Paragraph 2

Replace the paragraph with the following text:

"We recall that the establishment of the United Nations, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, became possible as a result of the end of the Second World War, whose fiftieth anniversary was marked by the international community in 1995.

"We express satisfaction that the aftermath of the Second World War, which had brought untold sorrow to mankind, has been essentially overcome, and emphasize that the States Members of the United Nations should cooperate in building new, equitable and just international relations.

"We call upon Member States to make - in commemoration of the victims of the Second World War - every effort to put an end to the existing armed conflicts, to prevent the emergence of such conflicts in the future, to settle disputes exclusively by peaceful means and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations in a way that will not endanger international peace and security."

C. Amendments proposed by Sweden

Paragraph 1

Replace the paragraph with the following text:

"We, the Heads of State, Heads of Government and Heads of Delegation, are gathered at United Nations Headquarters to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

"We, the Heads of State, Heads of Government and Heads of Delegation, renew our commitments to the Charter of the United Nations.

"We, the Heads of State, Heads of Government and Heads of Delegation, acknowledge the unique presence in the world of the United Nations.

"We, the Heads of State, Heads of Government and Heads of Delegation express our gratitude to all the men and women who have made the United Nations possible."